



Arrest Made in 1976 WF Murder; Suspect Must Be Charged as Juvenile

By PAUL J. PEYTON Specially Written by The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD - Union County Prosecutor Ted Romankow on Tuesday announced the arrest of a 51-year-old man in connection to the brutal rape and murder of a 57-year-old Westfield woman that occurred in 1976.



Lena Triano, Archives of WHS' The Weather Vane, 1937.



Carlton Franklin, Archives of WHS' The Weather Vane, 1979.

ger, the suspect has allegedly been identified as Carlton Franklin, Westfield High School Class of 1979, and at the time, a neighbor of the victim who lived at 617 Stirling Place. Mr. Romankow told reporters that the body of Lena Triano, who worked for a law firm in Newark, was found in her 616 Ripley Place home sometime between March 14 and 15, 1976.

"It was a brutal murder. She was hogtied, stabbed...sexually assaulted, also bludgeoned," Union County Prosecutor's Office Homicide Detective Vinny Byron said, noting that a bottle was broken over the woman's head. Det. Byron said the cause of death was determined to be asphyxiation and multiple stab wounds that lacerated her lung. Under state juvenile law in 1976, authorities could not release the names of anyone under the age of 16 as they could not be waived up to be charged as adults, Mr. Romankow said.



OVERDUE ARREST...The Union County Prosecutor's office made an arrest Monday in a 36-year-old Westfield homicide case. Lena Triano, 57, was found brutally raped and murdered in her home on Ripley Place in Westfield on March 15, 1976. Pictured, Homicide Detective Vinny Byron, left, and Prosecutor Ted Romankow make the announcement to the press on Tuesday.

Fanwood Awarded \$180,000 From NJDOT for Farley Ave.

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD - Mayor Colleen Mahr said Tuesday at the borough council's agenda meeting that the borough has received a \$180,000 award from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Municipal Aid Program for total road reconstruction work the borough will do on Farley Avenue.

ment zone, to add on-street parking and crosswalks, as well as getting signals more in line at Martine Avenue. "Their signalizations are causing a problem with us," Mayor Mahr said. "I thought the meeting was very good. We were asking for things we believe they can do," Mayor Mahr said. The borough's next steps are to draft a letter stating its concerns and sending it to the NJDOT.

Two new police officers were recommended to replace two long-term police officers that retired. The council's Public Safety committee interviewed the applicants, Thomas Chisholm and Ryan Gilmore. The mayor also said that she had a meeting with the NJDOT to discuss the South Avenue corridor. South Avenue is a state road. At the meeting, which included Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-22, Scotch Plains) in attendance, the borough stated its concerns that included the light being out at Terrill Road and South Avenue, adding parking striping along South Avenue, creating a gap to slow traffic within the redevelopment zone.

In response to resident Michael Lewis' question on the standing of a joint police department with Scotch Plains as part of a shared service, Mayor Mahr said, "The ball is in their court." Scotch Plains' Township Attorney Jeffrey Lehrer is to contact Fanwood's attorney, Dennis Estis, this week. The two municipalities have had an ongoing discussion on how to share services to reduce municipal costs. Mayor Mahr said should this not come to fruition that the borough would look at other avenues. The municipal budget, which was introduced at \$8.8 million last month and will have a public hearing Tuesday, April 17, would be less than an



OUTDOORS IN...The Home and Garden Show held at the National Guard Armory in Westfield this past weekend featured working three-tier garden waterfalls, bakery products and contractors in a multitude of areas for the home.



ON YOUR MARK...Runners dart across the starting line at the St. Bart's second annual Pot of Gold 5K race held Saturday morning in Scotch Plains.

SP Council Set for Budget Hearing; Rejects Use of Additional Surplus

By FRED T. ROSSI Specially Written for The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood

SCOTCH PLAINS - With its budget hearing two weeks away, the township council on Tuesday quickly dispatched a proposal from Councilman Kevin Glover to use more of the township's surplus as a revenue source in an effort to lessen the proposed increase in the municipal property-tax rate.

using too much surplus "was only asking for trouble" because it might not regenerate next year. She noted that she had agreed, as a "symbolic gesture," to use \$100,000 from the sewer utility surplus to lessen the property-tax burden. Deputy Mayor Mary DePaola agreed, saying, "We don't want to cut the surplus too much."

out that most department budgets were flat this year. In other matters, the council at its Tuesday, April 17 meeting will consider a resolution allowing the Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption store on East Second Street to place items for sale on the sidewalk. Last year, there were complaints about excessive numbers of goods on the sidewalk, and the council a year ago placed a five-piece limit on the displays. Zoning Officer Robert LaCosta said it appeared that the store has kept "within the confines" of last year's

At the governing body's regular meeting, Mr. Glover - who has advocated for using surplus more aggressively than his colleagues - proposed using an additional \$100,000 in surplus to reduce the tax hike from 1.96 percent to 1.25 percent. The council has already agreed to use \$2.24 million of township surplus funds to balance the proposed \$23.6-million budget.

Democratic Councilman Michael Marcus said he would favor doing something to reduce tax increases, whether it be using more surplus or "something else," such as added cuts in certain areas. But the mayor pointed

Education, as its candidate for township council. Mr. Saridaki and the winner of the June Republican Mayoral Primary will face Mr. Glover and Colleen Gialanella, the Democrats' choice for township council. Mrs. Malool, who joined the council in 2002, was elected mayor in 2008 over Mr. Glover, with Mrs. DePaola winning her council seat at the same time. The GOP currently controls the township council by a 3-2 margin.

The two Republican council members present at Tuesday's meeting - Councilman William Vastine was absent - opposed the move, with Mayor Nancy Malool saying that

Malool, DePaola Winner to Face Glover In Mayor Race

By FRED T. ROSSI Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS - Mayor Nancy Malool will challenge Deputy Mayor Mary DePaola in the Tuesday, June 5 Primary Election for the Republican mayoral nomination, with the winner facing Democratic Councilman Kevin Glover in November. The mayor's move came after the township Republican Committee voted last week to endorse Mrs. DePaola as its mayoral candidate and Ed Saridaki, a former member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of

"I don't think a small group of

Manduca, Szuch to Face Molenaar, Levine in Fall

By MICHAEL POLLACK Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD - This November, Fanwood Republicans will hope to keep the borough council evenly split amongst the two political parties, while Democrats attempt to take control over the governing body. Fanwood's government consists of six at-large council people and an elected mayor. Council members serve for three years, with the terms of two councilmen expiring at the end of each year. While the council is evenly split, Democratic Mayor Colleen Mahr, re-elected to a third four-year term in 2011, can break ties in the Democrats' favor.

ing or that because there is some construction that everything is solved. We have a declining tax base."

When asked how he proposed to tackle the issue, he cautioned that there is no easy solution. He also said the borough needs to be more "business-friendly."

"Instead of a few restaurants and some nail salons," the downtown needs an "anchor attraction" - like a movie theatre, supermarket or pharmacy, Mr. Manduca said.

On the issue of merging emergency services with Scotch Plains, he favors a study to look into the issue but said, "No one can show me one penny of savings" from merging.

He also feared that police response, if the departments are merged, could result in serious consequences. The councilman said the Fanwood Police Department responds within a three-minute time frame, while it takes an average of 16 minutes for Scotch Plains police to arrive at an emergency.

"You're giving up response time for a break-even proposition?" he asked. He said all upcoming retirements would be from Fanwood police personnel, not Scotch Plains. If the departments were merged, any savings would be shared with Fanwood's neighbor.

"I told the mayor, 'If you can show me that merging with the Scottish Guard saves us \$1 million a year, I'll put the bagpipes and the kilt on



SAY CHEESE...Cub Scouts from Evergreen School in Scotch Plains pose for a picture after a recent visit to the office of The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times.

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Portrait of George Kraus, Branch Vice President.